

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of
The White Memorial
Conservation Center

Vol. XXXX No. 2
Spring 2022

Museum Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

For Information

Phone: 860-567-0857

E-Mail: info@whitememorialcc.org



The American Eel Photo credit ~ United States Fish and Wildlife Service

A MYSTERIOUS FISH

EELS ~ An Exploration, From New Zealand to the Sargasso, of the World's Most Mysterious Fish
by James Prosek

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Conjecture about what an eel is exactly, or where its place is in the tree of life, has racked the brains of more than a few naturalists. Its limbless elongated body led some to believe it was related to the snake. The Greek naturalist and poet Oppian wrote in the second century AD: "Nothing more is known, than what people repeat about the loves of Roman eels and snakes. Some say that they pair, that, full of eagerness, drunk with desire, the Roman eel comes out of the sea to go and meet her mate." As late as 1833 Jerome V. C. Smith wrote in his *Eels Natural History of the Fishes of Massachusetts*: "On the whole, we view the eel in the light of a water-serpent, being the connecting link between purely aquatic and amphibious reptiles." The eel, however, is a fish, though it is a fish like no other.

The freshwater eel, of the genus *Anguilla*, evolved more than fifty million years ago, giving rise to fifteen separate species. Most migratory fish, such as salmon and shad, are anadromous, spawning in freshwater and living their adult lives in salt water. The freshwater eel is one of the few fishes that does the opposite, spawning in the ocean and spending its adulthood in lakes, rivers, and estuaries—a life history known as catadromy (in Greek ana- means "up" and cata- means "down," the prefixes suggesting the direction the fish migrates to reproduce).

"Salmon," Mike Miller, an eel scientist, told me, "can imprint on a river system. They are born in the river system, they go out in the ocean, and they come

back to the same river—it's not that bloody hard to do. In the case of the eel, you're born in the open ocean. You can't see anything around you except blue water. It's just blue water until they come to the coastal areas, where they first enter estuaries and streams at random. And then, ten to thirty years later when they leave the river, they have to swim all the way out to the same place in the ocean again. And how do they do that?"



Metamorphosis of eel larva to glass eel

The American and European freshwater eels (*Anguilla rostrata* and *Anguilla anguilla*) emerge from eggs suspended in the ocean—specifically, a warm clockwise gyre in the North Atlantic somewhere east of Bermuda called the Sargasso Sea. The only reason scientists know this is because baby eels in their larval stage, called leptocephali, have been found drifting near the surface of the ocean thousands of miles from any shore.

No one has ever been able to find a spawning adult or witness a freshwater eel spawning in the wild. For eel scientists, solving the mystery of eel reproduction remains a kind of holy grail.

Wherever eels are born, they're relentless in their effort to return to their natal womb. I can tell you this from personal experience because I've tried to keep them in a home aquarium. The morning after the first night of my attempt, I found eels slithering around the floor of my kitchen and living room. After securing a metal screen over the tank with heavy stones, I was able to contain them, but soon they were rubbing themselves raw against the screen. Then one died trying to escape via the filter outflow. When I screened the outflow, they banged their heads against the glass until they had what appeared to be seizures and died. That's when I stopped trying to keep eels.

Eels are wondrous in their ability to move. They're often found in lakes, ponds, and postholes with no visible connection to the sea, leaving the inquisitive shaking their heads.

On wet nights, eels are known to cross over land from a pond to a river, or over an obstruction, by the thousands, using each other's moist bodies as a bridge. Young eels can climb moss-covered vertical walls, forming a braid with their bodies. Farmers in Normandy say that eels will leave rivers on spring nights and find their way to vegetable patches to feed on peas.

(Continued on page 2)

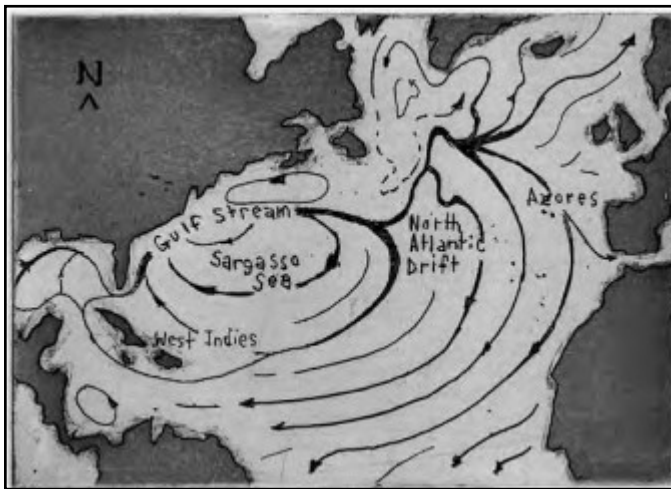
Continued from page 1

The yearly journeys millions of adult eels make from rivers to oceans must be among the greatest unseen migrations of any creature on the planet. In the course of these journeys, which span thousands of miles, eels face a long list of dangers: hydroelectric dams, river diversions, pollution, disease, predation (by striped bass, beluga whales, and cormorants, among others), fishing by humans, and changes in ocean currents or temperature structure due to global warming, which may confound eels during their migrations.

From Aristotle through Pliny, Walton, and Linnaeus - great naturalists of time have put forward various theories as to how eels make new eels - that the young emerged from the mud (Aristotle); that eels are bred from a particular dew that falls in the months of May and June (Walton); that they multiplied by rubbing themselves against rocks (Pliny); that they were viviparous, bearing live young rather than laying eggs (Linnaeus). One problem was that no one could identify sperm or eggs in eels. Over a forty-year period in the late 1700s, at the famous eel fishery at Comacchio, Italy, the biologist Spallanzani calculated that more than 152 million adult migratory eels had been caught and cleaned, not one of which was found to be pregnant. No one could say for sure whether eels even had gender, because no one could identify their reproductive organs.*

In the late nineteenth century, a young medical student named Sigmund Freud

was assigned by his professor Carl Claus to investigate what had been postulated to be the testes of the male eel. During several months at the Zoological Experimental Station in Trieste, Italy, Freud dissected more than four hundred eels, looking for loops of white matter festooned in the body cavity. The 1877 paper on eels,



The Sargasso Sea

“Observations on the Form and the Fine Structure of Looped Organs of the Eel, Organs Considered as Testes,” was Freud’s first published work. One can’t help but wonder if the time he spent that summer in his twentieth year dissecting eels played some role in the development of his later psychosexual theories. Needless to say, the testes of the eel would not be confirmed until 1897, when a sexually mature male eel was caught in the Straits of Messina between mainland Italy and the island of Sicily.

The larval stage of the eel bears little resemblance to the adult—it is a tiny, transparent creature with a thin head, a body shaped like a willow leaf, and out-

ward-pointing teeth. The larvae of freshwater eels were originally thought to be a separate genus of fish, first described as *Leptocephalus breverostris* in 1856 by the German naturalist Kaup after a specimen from the Mediterranean Sea (the common name for eel larvae today, leptocephali, remains as a relic of this misnomer). Then in 1896 two Italian biologists, Grassi and Calandruccio, watched a *Leptocephalus breverostris* metamorphose in a tank into an eel—the most convincing evidence to support the theory that freshwater eels were born in salt water. Still, though some speculated that eels spawned in the Mediterranean, no one had yet dreamed that freshwater eels from Europe hatched in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

In 1904, Johannes Schmidt, a young Danish fisheries biologist, got a job aboard the Thor, a Danish research vessel, studying the breeding habits of food fishes such as cod and herring. One day in the summer of that year, a tiny fish larva showed up in one of their fine-mesh trawls, west of the Faroe Islands in the Atlantic Ocean. Based on the number of vertebrae, 115, and the hypural bones at the end of the vertebral column, Schmidt identified the larva as that of the European eel, *Anguilla anguilla*, the first to be recognized as such outside of the Mediterranean Sea.

** The sex organs of eels mature only after the adults leave the mouths of rivers for their oceanic spawning grounds.*

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WHITE MEMORIAL CONSERVATION CENTER WELCOMES...

Gift Shop Manager / Administrative Assistant Kelly Orr and Environmental Educator Erin Josefson



Litchfield native Kelly Orr has been anointed as the Conservation Center’s new Gift Shop Manager / Administrative Assistant replacing Lois Melaragno who retires March 31 after 27 years of service. Orr grew up at White Memorial on its trails and in its classrooms. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Central Connecticut State University. Kelly’s free time is spent hiking, gardening, and

camping. Before coming to White Memorial she worked as a cheese maker at Arethusa Farm. Kelly is also an active member of our Education and Activities Committee. Her vision for the gift shop is to bring in a fresh new perspective and to add eco-conscious offerings. Orr is married to White Memorial Forest Manager, Mike Berry. They and their son Xzavier and dog, Mack, live in Litchfield.



Washington, Connecticut born Erin Josefson is the Conservation Center’s new Environmental Educator. She is a very welcome addition to Education Director Carrie Szwed’s ever-expanding program! Josefson received a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science from Paul Smith’s College. In her spare time, Erin is an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and a K-9 handler performing search and rescue with her Labrador Retrie-

ver, Lucy. Josefson enjoys hiking with her dogs. She is an enthusiastic volunteer wildlife rehabilitator at Audubon Sharon where she enjoys working with raptors and porcupines. Erin is excited about her new position teaching at White Memorial. “I love when I can inspire someone to love Nature as much as I do.” She lives in Roxbury with her husband Mike, three dogs, and three cats.

A Mysterious Fish

Continued from page 2

Schmidt was married to the heiress to the Carlsberg Brewery, a Danish company that had donated generously to marine research. Outfitted with schooners capable of ocean crossings, towing fine-mesh nets and catching hundreds of larvae, he was able to show that the farther from the European coast he went, the smaller the eel larvae became. After almost two decades of cruising the Atlantic, Schmidt was able to assert that both the American and European eels spawned somewhere in the southwestern part of the Atlantic—the Sargasso Sea. “No other instance is known among fishes of a species requiring a quarter of the circumference of the globe to complete its life history,” Schmidt wrote in 1923. “Larval migrations of such extent and duration . . . are altogether unique in the animal kingdom.”

Schmidt and his colleagues went on to search for the spawning areas of other freshwater eel species in the Indo-Pacific region, but with limited success. No other discoveries of anguillid eel-spawning areas came until 1991, when an expedition led by Katsumi Tsukamoto of the Ocean Research Institute in Tokyo found the spawning grounds of the Japanese eel. Japanese scientists had searched unsuccessfully for the spawning area of *Anguilla japonica* for six decades. But on this particular new moon night in the Pacific Ocean, in the Philippine Sea to the west of Guam, Tsukamoto and the other scientists on board netted the smallest larvae of that species that had ever been collected, and

finally determined the location of the spawning area of the Japanese freshwater eel. Still, they had not captured any adults.



The eel

Mike Miller, then a graduate student from the University of Maine, Orono, who was on the fateful expedition, described what it was like to look for spawning eels in the open ocean. “You could be fifty meters away and not find anything,” he said. “It’s an issue of scale—the ocean is huge. To get where eels are spawning, it’s statistically very low probability. Almost

impossible. You’d have to be very lucky.” It didn’t help that every previous year in which they’d made a cruise to look for the adults they’d run afoul of the elements. “I can’t remember a single eel cruise when there hasn’t been a typhoon that’s caused us to change course,” Miller added. “It’s almost like Poseidon is trying to keep the eels’ secret.”

That’s the greatest beauty I find in eels: the idea of a creature whose very beginnings can elude humans, and the potential that idea holds for our imaginations. Like the people I met in my travels, I get a good feeling from – eels. The nights and early mornings I’ve spent with them during the fall migration have pulsed with energy and light. Standing in an eel fisherman’s river weir in the cool September dark, watching the vein-like ropes of fish fill his womb of wood and stone, I’ve come to believe the Maori yarns about encounters they’ve had with the water guardians. We allow ourselves to believe that nature can be explained. In the process, we confine nature to those explanations. The eels, through their simplicity of form, their preference for darkness, and their grace of movement in the opposite direction of every other fish, have helped me to see things for which there is no easy classification, things that can’t be quantified or solved, and get to the essence of experience. They have been my way back.



This program is conducted by the Conservation Center’s Education and Activities Committee.

Nature Break-out Night

For 4 - 6th Graders

Friday, April 29 from 7:00 - 10:00 pm

If you enjoy exploring the outdoors, learning about nocturnal wildlife, viewing the night sky, and meeting new friends, then join us for Nature Break-Out Night at White Memorial.

In just 3 hours, you’ll get to listen to stories and snack on s’mores at a campfire, head out on a guided night hike, meet several live animals, and make a souvenir to take home!

Kids will be divided into groups of 10 and rotated through stations. Masks are required indoors and when we cannot be socially distanced outdoors. Event will occur rain or shine. Registration begins on April 1 and must be received by April 22. Pre-registration and pre-payment are required. Please inquire about financial aid as needed.

Members: \$35/child, Non-Members: \$55/child

For more information and to register, please visit www.whitememorialcc.org or call 860-567-0857.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

IN HER CONTINUING SERIES, ZOË GREENWOOD HELPS YOU FIND SMALL WAYS TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT

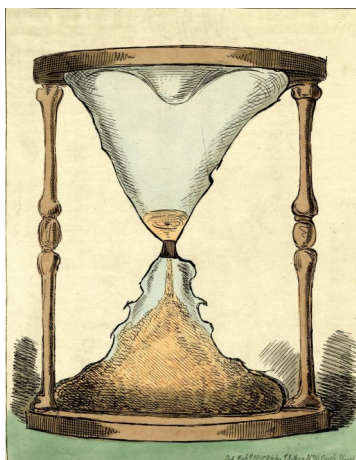
Time- what an elusive concept. We use the word in so many ways, to mean so many different things. Any **time**; the right **time**; day **time**; night **time**; a good **time**; a bad **time**; no **time** like the present. **Time** can weigh heavy on us like when we are waiting for a loved one in surgery or when we are waiting for a family vacation to come. It can go in a flash and be a fleeting thing- like when we're having a good conversation over a cup of tea with good friends. It's not something you can hold in your hand like a cup, but you know when it's gone. If only Jim Croce had been right, "If I could save **time** in a bottle..."

Indigenous Americans didn't value **time** the way modern man does. For them, it was more of a seasonal concept- **time** to plant, **time** to hunt, **time** to fish or **time** to reap.

Near the spring equinox- March 20 this year we "spring forward" and "lose" an hour that we "gain" back in the fall, at the autumnal equinox, September 22, 2022. Except for feeling logy for a few days afterward, perhaps, it doesn't really change much. Days still only have twenty four hours each. Enough **time**.

As I write this, hubby and I are moving again. This **time** we're going where there are fewer people; where things seem to be simpler; where friends and neighbors have **time** for a chat at the post office or grocery store or in line paying property taxes. People don't seem to be in such a rush here. They seem to have more **time**. Do they? Or do they choose to use it differently? There have

been lots of days when we haven't had enough **time** to call a friend, or read or book or take a nap because we've been too busy packing. Yes, we want to get to the new place asap, but at what cost? We really had the **time**, we just made the choice to pack instead. It's all about choices. Everything is about choices.



What are people rushing toward, anyway? Why can't we slow down and just be?

Time is a continuum. We can't stop it. It flows like a river. By the way, this is not the original topic that I'd planned to write about, but it was what kept coming up in my sub-conscious, **time** and **time** again. So, I went with it.

On April 22, Earth Day will be 52 years old. When it was started in 1970, people felt it was **time** to change the way we thought, to change the way we treat the Earth. It was **time** to change our old ways of doing and develop new ways of conserving, recycling, repurposing and

reusing. Each generation seems to need to be reeducated on the merits of reducing, reusing and recycling.

In the late 1980's, a young man by the name of Chris Rowlands worked for the CT DEP and developed a human action figure named Ray Cycle. Ray went to classrooms and schools to teach kids to reduce, reuse and recycle. "Re-re-re-re-re recycle; re-re-re-re-re reuse it; no, no do not trash it; no, no don't abuse it" was his theme song. It has stuck with me all these years and has become a firm and solid way of living. As my dear, late friend Betty used to say, "It's not brain surgery." It's simple. It's taking the **time** to stop and think before you act.

Betty was a brilliant, wise woman who also used to say, " 'Tis not the large things, but the small, that can do a body in. One can sit upon a mountain, but not upon a pin." Each small act that we do- reusing a glass jar; donating a shirt; even throwing out crumbs for birds and little critters - makes a difference. It all helps. It needs to become a way of life, something that you do so often it develops into muscle memory. You don't even have to think, you just do. It becomes part of the very fiber of you.

Time. You can't save it or store it for later use. It is fleeting. Now or never. You must use it wisely, for each individual is allotted only so much of it in a lifetime. You get 1,440 minutes a day; 10,080 a week and 524,160 a year. Isn't it **time** to use them wisely and ...

make a difference?

Thousands passed the lighthouse that night, on the first lap of a far sea journey — all the silver eels, in fact, that the marsh contained. And as they passed through the surf and out to sea, so also they passed from human sight and almost from human knowledge.

- Rachel Carson, 1941

Illustration: Jón Baldur Hlíðberg www.fauna.is



Torrington Savings Foundation Sponsors 2022 "After-School Adventures" Series

The Torrington Savings Foundation has awarded The White Memorial Conservation Center a \$2,500 grant to cover all expenses of "After-School Adventures" programs for the months of March and October, 2022.

This generous sponsorship offers free admission to all children in grades 1 - 6. After-School Adventures is designed to awaken curiosity and foster an appreciation for the natural world. Every session brings a new



adventure, whether it's exploring a new part of White Memorial property, meeting a live animal, or taking part in an outdoor activity.

The Conservation Center is deeply grateful to Torrington Savings Foundation Coordinator, Tina M. Milanesi for her support through the grant process and to Conservation Center member, Heather Perrault, for making us aware of this wonderful opportunity.

White Memorial Grows with Recent Land Acquisitions

Two recent land acquisitions have increased the size of the northeast portion of the White Memorial property, known as the Haight Parcel, located between South Street and Chestnut Hill in Litchfield. With these additions, the White Memorial now conserves a total of 4,028 acres in the Towns of Litchfield and Morris. Both boast significant frontage along the Bantam River and allow us to continue our mission of conserving this important resource.

In December of 2020, 6.056 acres of riverfront property was purchased south of East Street. This land is located between the Bantam River and the Litchfield Housing Authority at Wells Run. This parcel has 1,200 feet of frontage along the Bantam River. This area had a rich and varied history. Throughout the 1800's, the

river powered several manufacturing establishments, which included a sawmill, as well as a fulling mill and carding mill for the processing of wool. The land use later changed and an 1899 map shows the Litchfield Links golf course in this location. To showcase this special area, the addition of a loop trail and picnic area are planned for this coming year.

Many thanks to the generosity of Nancy E. Neal who donated 3.304 acres of land in memory of her late husband, James Neal. She gift-deeded this parcel to the Conservation Center in late November 2021. This high priority piece of land has over 630 feet of river frontage south of the bridge spanning the Bantam River on the Vineyard Trail. We are truly grateful that Mrs. Neal chose to honor the legacy of her husband through this gift.



“Sense-sational” Spring Break Camp

Tuesday-Friday, April 19-22

Grades 1-3: 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Grades 4-6: 1:30-4:30 pm

Members: \$25/child per session

Or \$90/child for the whole week

**Non-Members: \$40/child per session
or \$150/child for the whole week**

Spend your vacation exploring the wild! Meet live animals up close, make some awesome crafts, tromp around the woods, and play fun games, all while learning about the amazing senses of our native critters. Snacks and drinks will be served. Parents are welcome to stay, but it is not necessary. Meet in the A.B. Ceder Room. Advanced registration is required. Masks are required inside and when we cannot be socially-distanced outside. Please inquire about financial aid as needed.

To register, please visit whitememorialcc.org
or call 860-567-0857.



CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

GIVE LOCAL

Greater Waterbury and Litchfield Hills

April 26-27, 2022

Connecticut Community Foundation

www.GiveLocalCCF.org

The Connecticut Community Foundation Give Local Greater Waterbury & Litchfield Hills is a 36-hour online community giving event that encourages donors to lend their support to the nonprofit organizations that work every day to make our community stronger.

Every dollar donated to the Conservation Center from 7 a.m. on April 26th to 7 p.m. on April 27th will help defray the cost of virtual programming through 2022 and line the coffers of the **40th Annual Family Nature Day**, which takes place **September 24, 2022!** Your donations will be stretched with bonus funds provided by the *Connecticut Community Foundation* and generous *Give Local* sponsors.

We are also eligible to win amazing cash prizes during the event!

Watch our website www.whitememorialcc.org, read your *Habitattler* for more details on how you can donate, or visit our personal **Give Local** page: <https://www.givelocalccf.org/organizations/white-memorial-conservation-center>

White Memorial's Summer Nature Camp

Wonder Camp

Weekly 2-hour programs for children ages 4-5 featuring stories, songs, crafts, and outdoor adventures. Sign up by session or all 5 sessions. Tuesdays, July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2 and 9

Discovery Camp

Week-long sessions featuring outdoor discovery, games, books, songs, and crafts that help kids learn about the natural world. For children entering grades 1-2. Sign up by week or all 3 weeks. July 11-15, 18-22, and 25-29

Exploration Camp

Week-long sessions for children entering grades 3-9. All-day outdoor adventures await, both on White Memorial property and in many other natural places throughout northwest Connecticut. July 11-15 and/or 18-22 for 3rd and 4th grades, July 25-29 and/or Aug. 1-5 for 5th and 6th grades, Aug. 8-12 for 7th-9th grades

More details on www.whitememorialcc.org. Registration begins April 1 for members and April 15 for non-members.

Spring Calendar of *Virtual and In-Person Events

For more information on any of our programs, please call us at 860-567-0857. Register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

APRIL

- 2 *The Tribes and Cultures of Papua New Guinea with Stewart McPherson
See page 7 for details.



- 7 Nature's Nursery
Pre-registration is required:
www.whitememorialcc.org



- 9 *A Most Unusual Fish ~ The American Eel with Stephen Gephard
See page 7 for details.



- 9 Springtime Bird's Nest of Flowers Floral Design Workshop with Susan Spanger
See page 7 for details.



- 15 Good Friday
Offices and Museum Closed



- 16 A Stroll through Slab Meadow with Gerri Griswold
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.

- 16 *Film: Dam Nation: The Problem with Hydropower
2:00 p.m. Zoom & Facebook Live

- 17 Easter Sunday
Museum Closed



April 19 – 22
"Sense-sational"
Spring Break Camp
See page 5 for details!



- 20 - 26 Museum Children Free Week +

- 22 Star Party!
Astronomy program with star-gazing to follow, weather permitting, 7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room, Masks Required



- 23 A Springtime Stroll to Little Pond with Erin Josefsen
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.

- 26 / 27 GIVE LOCAL! A Day of Giving!
See page 5 for details!

+ Free admission to children under the age of twelve when accompanied by an adult.

- 29 NATURE BREAK-OUT NIGHT For Grades 4 - 6
See page 3 for details.



- 30 Edible Plant Walk with Andy Dobos
See page 7 for details.



MAY

- 7 Dawn Chorus with Fran Zygmunt
5:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room. Limited to 15!
Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

- 7 Spring Wildflower Walk with Pete and Barb Rzas
10:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room
Limited to 15! Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org



- 7 Peonies Floral Design Workshop with Susan Spanger
See page 7 for details.



- 11 - 17 Museum Children Free Week +

- 12 Nature's Nursery
Pre-registration is required:
www.whitememorialcc.org

- 14 A Hike to the Solnit Parcel and Camp Columbia with Gerri Griswold
10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room.

- 14 Let's Talk Trash with Litchfield's S. M. A. R. T. Task Force
2:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room.
Masks Required.



- 21 Bobbing for Bobolinks at Apple Hill and Topsmead State Forest with Gerri Griswold
8:00 a.m., Meet at the Apple Hill Trail Head off East Shore Road. Limited to 15.
Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online: www.whitememorialcc.org

- 21 *The Volcanic Explosion at Tonga, January 15, 2022 with Tom Alena
See page 7 for details.



- 25 - 31 Museum Children Free Week +

- 27 Star Party!
Astronomy program with star-gazing to follow, weather permitting.
7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room, Masks Required.

- 28 Edible Plant Walk with Andy Dobos
See page 7 for details.



- 28 Walk. Don't Run! Tackling the Litchfield Hills Road Race with Gerri & Leo

7.2 miles of fun! No dogs, please! 8:00 a.m., Meet "At the Corner." Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or register online:

www.whitememorialcc.org

- 30 Memorial Day
Offices Closed



JUNE

- 4 Connecticut Trails Day!

- Exploring the Lake & Butternut Brook Trails with Gerri Griswold

10:00 a.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room

- Amphibian Amble with Erin Josefsen
2:00 p.m., Meet in the A. B. Ceder Room
MASKS REQUIRED INDOORS!

- June 8, 15, 22, 29
Yoga in the Garden with Judith Erhman-Shapiro

8:00 a.m., \$10.00 a session

In the garden behind the Museum
A portion of the fee is donated to WMCC.
For more information or to register call:
860-309-9489

- 9 Nature's Nursery
Pre-registration is required:
www.whitememorialcc.org



- 11 A Sunrise Hike to Apple Hill & Cat Swamp with Gerri Griswold

4:30 a.m., Meet at the Apple Hill Trailhead off of East Shore Road.

Pre-registration is required.
Call 860-567-0857 or register online:
www.whitememorialcc.org

- 12 Litchfield Hills Road Race
Museum Closed



- 18 Edible Plant Walk with Andy Dobos
See page 7 for details.



- 24 Star Party!
Astronomy program with star-gazing to follow, weather permitting, 7:00 p.m., A. B. Ceder Room, Masks Required

- 25 Watery Wonderlands: The Beauty of Bogs with Pete & Barb Rzas
9:00 a.m., A. B. Ceder Room, Road trip to Mohawk State Forest to follow. Limited to 15!
Pre-register by calling 860-567-0857 or online: www.whitememorialcc.org

SPRING 2022 VIRTUAL & IN PERSON WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

CALL 860-567-0857 OR REGISTER ONLINE: WWW.WHITEMEMORIALCC.ORG



April 2 The Tribes & Cultures of Papua New Guinea with Stewart McPherson
2:00 p.m., ZOOM
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

A virtual visit to one of the most remote places on our planet. Stewart will introduce you to unique and amazing people, plants, and animals that occupy this Lost World. From towering mountains, to lush tropical rain forest...he'll even show you a glacier!



April 30, May 28, June 18 Edible Plant Walks with Andy Dobos
1:00 p.m., Meet in the A. B. Cedar Room
Members: \$15.00 Non-Members: \$25.00

Andy Dobos will help you learn some common, easily identifiable edible wild plants and how to responsibly harvest and prepare them. Walk through field, forest, and wetland edge as Andy identifies, gathers, and gives tips for preparation. *Andy has special permission to forage on WMF property.*



April 9 A Most Unusual Fish ~ The American Eel with Stephen Gephart
10:00 a.m., ZOOM
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

One of the most widely distributed and undoubtedly most fascinating fish species in Connecticut is also one of the least observed—the American Eel. This enigmatic species was found just about everywhere in the region when Europeans first arrived, but Steve will explain what has caused its distribution and numbers to drop and what efforts are being made to restore the eels' runs that have been lost.



May 7 Peonies Floral Design Workshop
2:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Members: \$65.00 Non-Members: \$75.00

Join Susan Spanger for a special floral design class centered on the beauty of the Peony! Learn how to design a natural and lush centerpiece with local peonies, accent flowers and foliage. Take home your stunning arrangement as a present to yourself or impress someone with a meaningful gift. Suitable for both beginners and experienced designers.



April 9 Springtime Bird's Nest of Flowers Floral Design Workshop
2:00 p.m., A. B. Cedar Room
Members: \$65.00 Non-Members: \$75.00

Unleash your creative side and welcome spring with an afternoon of floral arranging! Susan Spanger will teach you how to construct an abundant riotously colorful spring arrangement tucked into a lovely moss planter box. Perfect for beginner and experienced floral designers. All materials included!



May 21 The Volcanic Explosion at Tonga
3:00 p.m., ZOOM
Members: FREE Non-Members: \$10.00

Join Tom Alena as he discusses the nature of this massive eruption. Perhaps the Krakatoa of our lifetime, the Tonga submarine volcanic eruption exploded with the force of 18 megatons of TNT and created shockwaves through every layer of earth's atmosphere. Never before have we had such an array of instruments, both satellite and ground sensors, to measure the impact of such a powerful natural phenomena.

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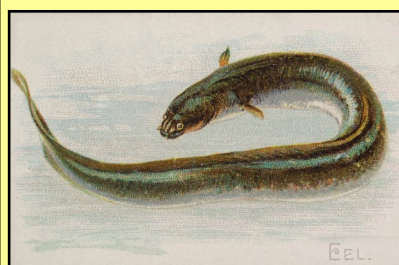
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"Curiosity will never be content. Even today, when we know so much, curiosity has not unraveled the riddle of the birth and sex life of the eel. Perhaps these are things, like many others, destined never to be learnt before the world comes to an end. Or perhaps — but here I speculate, here my own curiosity leads me by the nose — the world is so arranged that when all things are learnt, when curiosity is exhausted (so, long live curiosity), that is when the world shall have come to its end. But even if we learn how, and what and where and when, will we ever know why? Why, why?"

~ Graham Swift, *Waterland*



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Alaska: February 1954. In the beginning of November, every year a school of eel came up with river. Almost every man in town dips for eel while there is time. This year there was an exceptional large catch. The men dip with nets, which came up full of writhing eels. Quickly they are poured on the ice, where they wriggle until the cold catches up with them. The men follow the eels a way up the river since they move about 1 or 2 miles an hour. These eels provide dog food for the winter.

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